

**What Is Claimed Is:**

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1. A method of indicating receipt of a communication, comprising:  
registering a first message-indicating device for a user, said device  
5 comprising an indicator;  
receiving notification of receipt of a first communication directed to the  
user; and  
initiating a first wireless signal to said device;  
wherein in response to said first signal, said indicator activates to alert the  
10 user.

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2. The method of claim 1, further comprising:  
initiating a second wireless signal to said device;  
wherein in response to said second signal said indicator deactivates.  
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3. The method of claim 2, wherein said second wireless signal is  
initiated after the user accesses said first communication.
4. The method of claim 1, wherein said indicator deactivates in  
20 response to manipulation of the device by the user.
5. The method of claim 1, wherein said registering comprises:  
receiving an identification code of said device from the user; and  
associating said identification code with one or more types of  
25 communications.

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6. The method of claim 5, further comprising:

storing said identification code and said associations on a first server; and  
configuring said first server to automatically initiate said first wireless  
signal to said device in response to notification of receipt of one of said one or  
more types of communications.

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7. The method of claim 5, further comprising:  
storing said identification code and said associations on a first server;  
receiving from the user a selection of one or more criteria identifying when  
said first signal should be sent in response to receipt of a first type of  
10 communication; and  
configuring said first server to automatically initiate said first wireless  
signal to said device when:  
it is determined that said first type of communication is received  
for the user; and  
15 said one or more criteria are satisfied.

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8. The method of claim 5, wherein said first communication is a  
voice-mail message.

- 20 9. The method of claim 5, wherein said first communication is an  
electronic mail message.

10. The method of claim 1, further comprising:  
registering a second message-indicating device for the user; and  
25 initiating said first signal to said second device when said first signal is  
initiated to said first device.

11. The method of claim 1, further comprising:  
registering a second message-indicating device for the user; and  
initiating said first signal to said second device when notification of  
receipt of a second communication directed to the user is received, but not when  
5 said notification of said first communication is received.

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A3 12. A method of using a message-waiting device to notify a user of  
receipt of a communication for the user, the method comprising:  
receiving a communication directed to a user;  
10 initiating a first electronic signal to a first message-waiting device  
associated with the user, wherein said first message-waiting device includes an  
indicator and said first electronic signal is configured to activate said indicator;  
providing said communication to said user; and  
after said providing, automatically initiating a second electronic signal to  
15 said first message-waiting device, wherein said second electronic signal is  
configured to deactivate said indicator.

13. A method of indicating receipt of a communication, comprising:  
receiving a first wireless signal at a first message-indicating device,  
20 wherein said first device includes an alarm;  
activating said alarm in response to said first wireless signal; and  
deactivating said alarm;  
wherein receipt of said first wireless signal indicates that a first  
communication was directed to a user of said first device.

25 14. The method of claim 13, wherein deactivating said alarm  
comprises deactivating said alarm in response to a second wireless signal.

15. The method of claim 14, wherein said second signal is received after the user accesses said first communication.

5 16. The method of claim 13, wherein deactivating said alarm comprises deactivating said alarm in response to manipulation of the first device by the user.

10 17. The method of claim 13, further comprising registering said first device for activation in response to receipt of one of multiple types of communications including said first communication.

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15 18. The method of claim 17, further comprising:  
registering a second message-indicating device for activation in response  
to receipt of one of said multiple types of communications;  
receiving a first wireless signal at said second message-indicating device  
close in time to said receipt of said first wireless signal at said first device,  
wherein said second device includes an alarm; and  
activating said alarm of said second device in response to said first  
20 wireless signal.

19. A computer readable storage medium storing instructions that,  
when executed by a computer, cause the computer to perform a method of  
indicating receipt of a communication, the method comprising:  
25 registering a first message-indicating device for a user, said device  
comprising an indicator;  
receiving notification of receipt of a first communication directed to the

user; and

initiating a first wireless signal to said device;

wherein in response to said first signal, said indicator activates to alert the user.

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~~20.~~ A portable apparatus for indicating receipt of a communication, comprising:

a signal receiver configured to receive a first wireless signal generated after receipt of a communication; and

10 an indicator configured to activate in response to receipt of said first signal;

wherein said indicator is configured to deactivate in response to a second signal.

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~~21.~~ The apparatus of claim 20, wherein said second signal is a wireless signal.

~~22.~~ The apparatus of claim 20, further comprising a switch configured to issue said second signal in response to user manipulation.

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~~23.~~ The apparatus of claim 22, wherein said indicator comprises said switch.

~~24.~~ The apparatus of claim 20, wherein said indicator is a visual indicator.

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~~25.~~ The apparatus of claim 20, wherein said indicator is an audible

indicator.

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26. A method of indicating a communication waiting status for a user, comprising:

- 5 receiving notification of a first communication for a first user;  
accessing a user profile of the first user, said user profile identifying a set of communication waiting indication devices associated with the first user, wherein each device in said set of devices comprises an indicator;  
identifying a subset of said communication waiting indication devices  
10 based on said first communication; and  
initiating a first wireless signal to said subset of devices, wherein in response to said first wireless signal said indicators of said subset of devices are actuated.

- 15 27. The method of claim 26, further comprising:  
initiating a second wireless signal to said subset of devices, wherein in response to said second wireless signal said indicators of said subset of devices are de-actuated.

- 20 28. The method of claim 27, wherein said second wireless signal is initiated in response to acknowledgement of said first communication by said first user.

- 25 29. The method of claim 26, wherein a first device in said subset of devices comprises a switch, the method further comprising:  
de-actuating said indicator of said first device in response to manipulation of said switch.

30. The method of claim 26, wherein said user profile reflects user-specifiable criteria for determining when an indicator of a device in said set of devices is to be actuated in response to a communication received for the first user.

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Ab } 31. A communication waiting indication system comprising:  
a first communication waiting indication device associated with a first user, said first device comprising an alarm; and  
10 a notification server configured to issue a first wireless signal toward said first device in response to receipt of a first communication for the first user;  
wherein in response to said first wireless signal, said alarm is activated.

32. The system of claim 31, wherein said first device has an  
15 identification code, further comprising:  
a first server configured to store said identification code in association with a first user profile for the first user;  
wherein said first user profile is configured to identify one or more types of communication, including said first communication, in response to which said  
20 first wireless signal is to be initiated toward said first device.

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C1 } 33. The system of claim 31, further comprising:  
a second communication waiting indication device associated with the first user, said second device comprising an alarm;  
25 wherein said alarm of said second device is also activated in response to said first wireless signal.

34. The system of claim 31, further comprising:  
a second message waiting indication device associated with the first user,  
said second device comprising an alarm;  
wherein said alarm of said second device is not activated in response to  
5 said first wireless signal.

35. The system of claim 31, wherein said notification server initiates a  
second wireless signal toward said first device after the first user acknowledges  
said first communication; and  
10 wherein in response to said second wireless signal, said alarm is  
~~deactivated.~~

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